

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00681 111618Z

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ACTION EA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3556

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 681

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: ESCORT OFFICERS FOR USG-FACILITATED EXCHANGE GROUPS
TO THE PRC

SECSTATE FOR EA/PRCM DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG ONLY

HONG KONG FOR CONSUL GENERAL CROSS ONLY

REF: ARMSTRONG LETTERS OF MARCH 13 AND MARCH 18

1. SINCE RECEIVING YOUR LETTERS WE HAVE BEEN GIVING SOME
COLLECTIVE THOUGHT TO THE WHOLE ESCORT QUESTION. BASICALLY, WE FEEL
WE HAVE CROSSED SOMETHING OF A WATERSHED ON USG ESCORTS FOR
FACILITATED GROUPS TO THE PRC. IT WAS USEFUL IN THE PAST TO USE
THIS METHOD FOR INCREASING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHINA-RELATED
OFFICERS TO VISIT CHINA. BUT FROM NOW ON, WE THINK WE SHOULD CONCENTR
ATE

ON THE BASICS OF ASSIGNING OFFICERS WHO WILL BE OF MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE
TO THE DELEGATION, WHO HAVE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICY
IMPLICATIONS OF ANY PROBLEMS THAT MIGHT ARISE, AND WHO WILL USE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPLEMENT USLO AND CONGEN REPORTING ON PLACES AND
INSTITUTIONS IN CHINA WE DO NOT NORMALY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY
TO VISIT. WE DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD REQUEST ONE OR MORE ESCORT SLOTS
WITH A DELEGATION JUST TO ALLOW MORE PEOPLE TO SEE CHINA.

2. REALIZING YOUR PROBLEMS IN THIS AREA, IT STILL SEEMS IMPORTANT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 00681 111618Z

TO US THAT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE AND CSC BE TOLD AT AS HIGH A

LEVEL AS NECESSARY THAT USG DEEMS IT ESSENTIAL THAT A USG ESCORT BE ASSIGNED TO EACH DELEGATION. WE CONSIDER THE MOTE INCIDENT LAST FALL A VERY SERIOUS MATTER. IT CAUSED A FORMAL PRC PROTEST AND MAY WELL HAVE LED TO A PRC DECISION WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR AMERICANS, OF FICIAL

OR OTHERWISE, CRITICIZED BY THE COMMUNISTS IN THE 1940'S TO RETURN TO CHINA IN ANY CAPACITY. THE INCIDENT COULD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF A USG ESCORT WHO UNDERSTOOD THE IMPLICATIONS OF MOTE'S PLANNED ACTION HAD BEEN IN THE PROVINCES WITH THE DELEGATION. OF COURSE, WE NEED TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE COMMITTEES THAT WE ARE NOT ASSIGNING FSO'S TO THE GROUPS MERELY TO GIVE THEM CHINA

EXPOSURE AND OUR ASSIGNMENT OF ESCORTS SHOULD CONFORM TO THIS. FRANKLY, USLO BELIEVES OFFICERS IN THE DEPARTMENT AND SISTER AGENCIES NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO SINO-U.S. RELATIONS SHOULD VISIT THE PRC ON CONSULTATIONS, NOT AS DELEGATION ESCORTS.

3. THE CHINESE SEEM TO BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO HONG KONG CONGEN OFFICERS PERFORMING OFFICIAL DUTIES IN THE PRC. WHILE THE POLICY IS NOT EQUITABLE IT APPEARS TO BE A FIRM ONE AND WAS JUST FOLLOWED AGAIN IN THE TURNDOWN ON THE CANTON FAIR. WE SUSPECT THE PRC WILL ALSO REFUSE ANY USG ATTEMPT TO ASSIGN CONGEN OFFICERS AS DELEGATION ESCORTS. NOW THAT WE HOPEFULLY HAVE THE CONGEN CONSULTATIONS PROGRAM RUNNING RELATIVELY SMOOTHLY, THERE SEEMS NO REASON TO ENDANGER IT BY PUSHING OUR LUCK ON THE ESCORT ISSUE. USLO, THEREFORE, DOES NOT THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA TO ASSIGN HONG KONG OFFICERS AS ESCORTS AT THIS TIME.

4. WITH THE ABOVE GENERAL POINTS IN MIND, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS ON ESCORTS FOR UPCOMING DELEGATIONS. WE HOPE TO ATTACH AN ESCORT TO EACH OF THE HIGHER VISIBILITY DELEGATIONS TO THE PRC THAT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL SPONSOR THIS YEAR. LYNN PASCOE WILL MEET THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM IN HONG KONG AND SERVE AS THEIR ESCORT WHILE THEY ARE IN THE PRC. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE TRACK AND FIELD DELEGATION, WE THINK TWO USG ESCORTS ARE WARRANTED IN THIS UNUSUAL CASE AND WELCOME INCLUSION OF DONNELLY IN DELEGATION. WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHO WE WILL ASSIGN TO THE WORLD AFFAIRS ORGANIZATIONS AND MAYORS GROUP. HOWEVER, IF THEY HAVE UNDER TWENTY PEOPLE, WE FRANKLY DOUBT THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO ADD ESCORTS FROM THE WASHINGTON END EVEN THOUGH THE CHINESE WOULD RELUCTANTLY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 00681 111618Z

ACCEPT TWO USG ESCORTS IF WE PRESSED THEM. DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ASSIGN DEPARTMENTAL OFFICER TO EACH OF THE PLANNED CSC GROUPS (ALTHOUGH IF CHINESE LANGUAGE ECONOMIC SPECIALIST NOT AVAILABLE FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRY GROUP, USLO WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ONE OF ITS ECON OFFICERS ACCOMPANY.) IF THEY WILL NOT AGREE IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, WE SUGGEST YOU THEN PUSH FOR A USLO OFFICER TO ACCOMPANY THE GROUP. WE THINK THEY ARE VULNERABLE ON THE HANDLING OF THE MOTE EPISODE.

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